

Nannie's Lesson.

By CARL WILLIAMS.

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"Won't you do what is right by my daughter?"

Nannie shivered at the pathos of the plea and turned to look at the speaker. It was odd that he should pick out the platform of the elevated station for his appeal, but perhaps this was some chance meeting and the only opportunity the old man had.

"She was a happy girl until she met you," the old man continued. "There was no better or happier girl in the whole city, and now—"

The voice broke through excess of emotion, and Nannie turned to see who the man might be. He was younger than she had expected, and he bore the stamp of prosperity. He was no trembling, decrepit old man, but middle-aged and well to do. Still, there was no mistaking the sincerity of his speech, and Nannie shifted her glance to the young man.

With a little shuddering sob she turned and hurried aboard the train which had just pulled in.

It was not the train she wanted, but she felt she must get away from the place, for the man to whom the elder was making his appeal was Jack Laurance, her Jack. He listened to the other man largely because of the restraining hand upon his arm. He could not get away, and his handsome face plainly showed the annoyance he felt, but there was no suggestion of remorse or shame. In the train Nannie shuddered again and twisted the solitary that was the pledge of his love.

With a gesture of despair, she finally drew the ring from her finger and slipped it into her purse. It had been the pledge of his love, and he had

proved recreant to an earlier promise. Somewhere a woman mourned her broken heart and his broken promises.

At the next station Nannie changed to a train in the opposite direction. She had been hurrying downtown to meet Jack for a matinee with him. They were to have met at a downtown station because he could not get away from the office in time to call for her. What he was doing in the uptown district she did not know, and now she told herself that she did not care.

Bravely she held out until she reached the house; then she hurried to her own room to throw herself upon the bed and flood the pillow with her tears.

Less than a year had passed since Jack Laurance had come into her life, but it had been the most important year of her girlhood.

Almost from the first she had been attracted to him by his manliness and the honesty of the deep brown eyes. She had been pleased with his attentions, and when he told his love and asked her to become his wife it seemed as if her cup of joy was filled to overflowing. She had often felt a superstitious dread that something might happen, and now that fear had been realized.

Several times the telephone bell rang, but Nannie felt that she could not speak to Laurance even over the wire, and the last time she sent a message to the effect that she would write to him.

Before she could finish her letter one had come from him in which he apologized for not keeping his appointment on time and explaining that he had run uptown on business and had been delayed by an unexpected encounter with an old friend from whom he had been unable to escape.

The letter was the last thing needed to confirm Nannie in her resolution. By his own admission Jack had been uptown. He might intend to explain away his detention by an old friend, but Nannie knew what that encounter had meant, so it was a brief and formal note that accompanied the ring back to the giver.

Jack did not yield easily, but Nannie would not read the letters he wrote imploring her to explain just what the trouble had been. He told her he could not believe that the engagement was broken because he had been late in keeping an appointment, and he begged her to give him an opportunity to explain.

To Nannie the letters merely meant that he feared the old man had sought her and revealed Laurance's perfidy. Doubtless he wished to ascertain if this was the fact, that he might offer some explanation. Perhaps he even thought that he might be able to win her over, but no one could have lis-

tened to the old man's plea and accept any explanation from the wrongdoer.

For nearly two months Jack persisted in his endeavor to set things straight and Nannie grew pale and nervous under the strain. Even her father, absorbed in business affairs, saw her distress and in his clumsy way sought to help her.

His help took the form of theater tickets, and several times she met him downtown on Saturday afternoons and went to a matinee with him. One afternoon he regarded her with eyes that twinkled.

"We're going to be real frivolous this afternoon," he declared. "I got seats for the variety show. There's a chap on the bill I met the other day. He is something of a bore when he wants to talk about himself—which is most of the time—but otherwise he's a good sort, and I'd like to see what he does."

Nannie nodded. Her father had often sacrificed his own inclinations to take her to serious plays, which she liked best. It was only fair that he should have his afternoon of vaudeville. Once ensconced in the comfortable chairs she found the entertainment rather diverting.

The chief attraction was a playlet offered by Hugh Wassingford, who had achieved a reputation on the dramatic stage, which he was now selling to advantage in vaudeville.

Nannie started at his entrance. Allowing for the changed appearance in makeup, it was the man of the elevated platform. The voice, the mannerisms were all the same, and presently the story of the sketch developed the tale of a deserted daughter, and, in the same words that had been seared into Nannie's brain, the old man made his plea, but this time to a paid actor and not to Laurance.

The trembling appeal had its effect, and the curtain fell on the two men starting in search of the girl. As the applause died down her father turned to Nannie and smiled approvingly as he saw that the girl's eyes were filled with tears.

"Great work that," he commented. "That fellow is a real actor. He recited the whole of the sketch for me at the club the other night, and, by Jove, I almost cried myself. Jack Laurance brought him over to a little smoker the boys got up. Jack says the first time he heard the act was on an elevated station. He was in a hurry to get downtown, and Wassingford held him there for half an hour, with Jack scowling into his face and looking at his watch every three minutes as a hint that he was late. But Wassingford held him to the very end. Jack picked the winner of two sketches he had the first time he played in vaudeville, and now Wassingford thinks that he can't put on a sketch until Jack thinks it's all right."

"Do you suppose that Jack is here this afternoon?" asked Nannie eagerly.

"He told Wassingford he would come down. He may be back in the dressing room."

"Will you please see if he is and ask him to come here?" said Nannie, and her father started off, pleased at the request. He liked Jack and was glad that there might be a chance for the breach to be healed.

He stood by the back rail while Jack took the seat he had occupied. Nannie reached out her hand and clasped his, glad that the house was darkened for the motion pictures.

"I sent for you to ask you to forgive me and to tell you that your friend Mr. Wassingford is a great actor," she whispered. "I was on the elevated station when he told you that sketch, and I heard only his appeal—and believed. Oh, can you forgive me, Jack?"

"Can I?" echoed Jack. "Well, I guess I can. You wait until we get home, and watch me. I'm so happy, dear, that I won't even hold it against you that you could believe evil of me. Wassingford is a convincing sort of chap, but I do wish he would cut out those monologue rehearsals on the street. They are bound to make trouble."

"It was a good thing, after all," whispered Nannie. "After this I shall not believe evil of you, no matter how convincing it may sound. I have had my lesson."

Wrestling With a Tiger.
Two brothers, Khuda Bakhs and Shaikh Abdul Ghani of Moradabad, were dispatched to Rampur on an errand, and while entering a grove at Khadpura, says the Indian Daily Telegraph, a tiger sprang upon Khuda Bakhs, who, being an athlete, warded off the blow aimed at him with his right hand and caught one of the paws with the other and maintained his hold, though the tiger was mauling the other hand.

Abdul Ghani now rushed up with a stout stick, which he forced down the tiger's throat, making it release his brother's hand, when Khuda Bakhs seized another paw with his wounded hand, forcing both paws back. He wrestled with the tiger, keeping it down by sheer force, while Abdul Ghani killed it with his lath.

The tiger was carried by the brothers to his highness the nawab of Rampur, "who kept the skin as a memento and sent Khuda Bakhs to the state dispensary for treatment."

Peculiarity of Snakes.
A snake tamer who had trained a serpent to follow him around the house and even out of doors happened one day to take it with him to a strange place. The snake, unused to the locality, suddenly seemed to forget all his training and, escaping into the bushes, resisted capture with bites and every indication of wildness.

When caught it at once resumed its tame habits. This tendency to become wild immediately upon obtaining their freedom and to again become tame when caught is said to be a peculiarity of snakes.—New York Tribune.

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